

Professionalization Update – May 28, 2020

COVID-19 Advisory Committee

Last month, we reported that the ARIDO Board of Management wrote to Premier Ford to offer the profession's support to government during the crisis. The letter was also sent to the Attorney General's Office and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, in follow up to our ongoing discussion with government on the importance of the ARIDO/OAA Direction Regulation model. ARIDO recommended the interior profession be engaged related to government's approach when addressing the needs of interior spaces in response to COVID-19.

On May 20, 2020, ARIDO received a response from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) thanking ARIDO for extending its support and inviting the organization to get involved in several ways; first through our offer of forming an Advisory Committee to support government in response to COVID-19 and second, by providing support to government's [action plan in protecting vulnerable Ontarians](#). ARIDO has reached out to the Ministry to begin discussions and identify next steps. We believe this will be an opportunity to work closer with Ontario Government and build greater awareness around the qualification and training ARIDO members possess. We will keep the membership informed of the work as it progresses including recruitment for volunteers to support this initiative as needed. To view a copy of the original letter to government, [click here](#). To view the response received on May 20th, [click here](#).

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing: Emergency Orders Related to Temporary Facilities and Essential Construction.

In the April update, ARIDO reported that it participated in a stakeholder information session on Emergency Orders related to Temporary Facilities and Essential Construction held by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH). ARIDO wrote to the Ministry in follow up on what appeared to be a misunderstanding on the scope of interior design, what training ARIDO members possess related to codes and regulations, and when an architect or engineer is required. On May 19, we received a response to our concerns wherein the Ministry acknowledged the training and qualifications of the profession, and provided clarity on the intent of the Emergency Orders. The letter confirmed that the emergency order is intended for temporary structures, which the OBC currently mandates an architect and engineer as the design lead. To view our original letter to the Ministry, [click here](#). To view the response received, [click here](#).

We will continue to work with the Ministry on similar items to ensure ARIDO members and the profession of interior design are engaged, and allowed to carry out their scope of work in compliance with the Architect's Act and the Ontario Building Code.

Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) is considering establishing a Design-Build Standing Offers for Office Fit-ups.

Earlier this month, Public Services and Procurement Canada (PSPC) announced that it was considering the establishment of a Design-Build Standing Offers for Office Fit-ups, and it had released a call out to the design and construction industry with the opportunity to submit recommendations and comments. ARIDO took this opportunity to ensure that Interior Designers in Ontario were represented and provided recommendations to PSPC for their consideration.

The two primary recommendations included:

1. That PSPC mandate practitioners which are qualified with a provincial regulatory body (such as ARIDO) for all interior design projects in Canada; and
2. that PSPC implement a Quality Based Selection approach when establishing a design-Building Standing Offers for Office Fit-ups.

ARIDO believes in the importance of establishing procurement programs that include good practices and policies where the client's best interest and the needs for the intended space are a priority. It is equally important to ensure procurement programs enable a fair and transparent selection process where all ARIDO members, whether in small, medium and large design firms across Ontario, are considered and able to carry out their scope of practice. [Click here](#) to view the letter submitted to PSPC.

ARIDO has also worked with other provincial regulatory bodies across Canada to ensure consistent messaging and representation of the interior design profession for federal opportunities such as this one.